

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /107 W

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P 121001Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8687

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, XX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FUEL SHORTAGES - INTERNATIONAL AVIATION.

REF: A) STATE 221740; B) HK 11248

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL B) HONG KONG HAS NOT REALLY FELT IMPACT OF PETROLEUM CRISIS YET. NORTHWEST AND FLYING TIGER REPORT NO PROBLEMS TO DATE; PAN AM HAS CUT ONE OF ITS DAILY CARGO FLIGHTS TO U.S.; TWA IS GROUNDED AS RESULT OF STRIKE IN U.S. OIL COMPANIES INDICATE AVIATION FUEL STOCKS ADEQUATE FOR NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS AT LEAST. NORMAL AVIATION FUEL REQUIREMENT IS ABOUT 40,000 TONS MONTHLY, AND SINGAPORE IS PRINCIPAL SOURCE.

2. CATHAY PACIFIC, ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AIRLINE, DOES NOT OPERATE TO U.S. CP FLIGHTS COULD BE AFFECTED BY FUEL CUTBACKS ELSEWHERE IN THIS AREA, AFFAIR WHICH MIGHT ACCELERATE HKG DECISION TO INTRODUCE FUEL ALLOCATION.

3. HONG KONG CONSUMES NEARLY 5 MILLION TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PER YEAR: ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD FOR POWER; ONE-THIRD FOR INDUSTRY, HOMES AND TRANSPORT; AND ONE-THIRD FOR VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT. ABOUT ONE-HALF OF NORMAL SUPPLY IS IMPORTED FROM SINGAPORE; BALANCE COMES FROM SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN,
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BAHRAIN, THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA. POSSIBLE

REDUCTION OF SUPPLIES FROM SINGAPORE (SINGAPORE'S 4304),
AND BAN ON EXPORTS FROM PHILIPPINES (MANILA'S 12482) LIKELY
TO TRIGGER HKG ACTION UNLESS ARAB OIL BAN EASED IN NEAR
FUTURE.

4. HKG ANNOUNCED NOV 10 ESTABLISHMENT TWO SPECIAL COMMIT-
TEES (OIL POLICY, OIL DISTRIBUTION) AND A DIRECTOR OF OIL
SUPPLIES. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED HOWEVER THAT
OIL STOCKS ARE NORMAL AND "AS YET" THERE HAD BEEN NO INTER-
RUPTION IN DELIVERIES. AS REPORTED REFTEL B), RATIONING
WIDELY EXPECTED AND GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING FOR THIS
POSSIBILITY. IF THIS OCCURS AND AVIATION FUEL IS AFFECTED,
WE ANTICIPATE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOCATE FUEL ON EQUITABLE
BASIS PERMITTING FLIGHTS TO REACH NEXT STOP AS LONG AS THIS
POSSIBLE.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, SUPPLIES, CIVIL AVIATION, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK11357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731140/aaaabdhu.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 221740; B) HK 11248
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - FUEL SHORTAGES - INTERNATIONAL AVIATION.
TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, XX, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005